# WAR SUFFERERS' RELIEF BULLETIN

*"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister"*


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## Entering China

By S. F. Pannabecker

*At last it appears that relief work in China is about to become a reality for the Mennonite Church. On September 28, 1945, S. F. Pannabecker arrived in Chungking, China, eleven days near a year after he had left the States. Since that time he and P. P. Baltzer, also a Mennonite appointee, have been investigating relief needs in China and with the American Advisory Council have been making plans for extensive work upon the arrival of additional workers. This article is a compilation of excerpts from letters received from Brother Pannabecker since his arrival in Chungking.—Editor.*

Of course we are glad to be in China though conditions in Chungking are very much abnormal. Living quarters are hard to find and on occasion second rate quarters have to be accepted. The first place I stayed two days was definitely inferior —dirty, bedbugs, rather poor menu and unsanitary kitchen. Since getting out of the hospital I have been able to get accommodations with Brother Baltzer at the National Bible Society of Scotland residence and that is satisfactory.

Chungking is CHINA now. The presence of Chinese from other parts of the country has been both an irritation and a blessing to the local people. They have resented the coming of thousands of outsiders, then have milked them economically. In church work a highly trained man from down the river has sometimes been a problem for the local pastor who possesses less training but nevertheless does not feel like relinquishing his position for the better man. So, relations between local and "down-river" people have not always been the best. Yet the interior has profited in many ways and, when in another six months most of the outsiders will have left, the local people are going to experience a district depression.

**Down-River Movement**

The movement down river is just beginning. Several have already left Chungking and others will be leaving soon. Even the Chinese are aching to get out of this damp, hilly, expensive, unpleasant place and back to the happy homes they used to know. One suspects there will be much disappointment when they get there, but that is another matter. Both boats and planes going east are reserved full.

Refugees crowd the river bank where down-river boats are scheduled to leave. They sit on their baggage in the open while the man of the family goes out to buy tickets. Scalpers purchase blocks of tickets and resell to the poor folks who have no way but to buy from them. Food sellers hold them up for exorbitant prices and since they dare not leave their baggage it is either buy or die.

As to conditions in other parts of the country, the report is that cities like Shanghai appear superficially quite normal—stores open with good stocks, electric lights, street cars running, streets quiet and crowded with people, Chinese administration operating in reasonable fashion. In the interior, however, the Communist—Central Government competion for control is on. It is not called civil war, but it has begun. The fighting in northern Honan is continuing and grow-

ing worse. It looks as if this were the beginning and more to come.

**The Mennonite China Unit**

Two Mennonite appointees, P. P. Baltzer and the writer have been in China for close to two months working out a suitable relief program with the American Advisory Committee and making necessary contacts with relief agencies already in the field. The area we hope to center our work in is that in northern Honan to the east and north of Kaifeng. This should be an important refugee area and for immediate work there is need of such services as minor medical care, supervision of shelters, provision of food and drinking water, sanitation and epidemic prevention, information and general welfare.

In view of the fighting going on in northeast Honan it may be necessary to modify the suggested plan somewhat or postpone action on it. If so, we have an alternate plan which provides for establishing headquarters at Hankow and assisting in relief work with refugees in that city. Hankow has suffered probably worse than any other large city in China and now is crowded with refugees trying to return home but unable to proceed. Local relief agencies are unable to cope with the problem and need help.

Plans for Mennonite work are being based on three central ideas: first, cooperation with other agencies not in the field; secondly, an immediate program of relief and rehabilitation for refugees on the fringe of formerly occupied areas; and thirdly, a longer term program of medical and public health work combined with industrial and agricultural rehabilitation. Our present plans call for Brother Baltzer and me to leave for Honan at the first opportunity where we will be engaged in organizing the relief program of the American Advisory Committee for the province and preparing for opening the Mennonite work. How soon the MCC unit will start operation depends only upon how soon the appointees in Calcutta can get the necessary permission to proceed. We hope for a few of them during the next month. The workers in Calcutta awaiting authorization to come to China are Wilhelmina Kuyf, Vera Yoder, Verna Zimmerman, Clayton Beyler, Lawrence Burkholder, and Titus Lehman.

# *Notes from the Field*

**Grasshopper Plague in Paraguay.**—Following close on the heels of a crop year which realized only about one-fifth average production because of damage from grasshoppers and because of the dry season, the Mennonite colonies are all confronted with another grasshopper plague which struck at the beginning of the current planting season. The real damage, report the colonists, comes within six weeks of the appearance of the grasshoppers, for then the eggs they have laid hatch out and the young crawling grasshoppers eat up all vegetation in sight.—from Paraguay Notes.

**Death Stalks Germany.**—This winter it is Germany that needs food more than anything else and perhaps more than any other country. Hans Albrecht, a leading Berlin Quaker, reported recently that "no child born in Germany in 1945 will survive the coming winter. Only half the children aged less than three years will survive." If we are to learn anything from the experiences of the past in our relief efforts surely we have learned this, that in the matter of food relief the time factor is the all important one. We could not come here (Holland) last winter, BUT we can at least try to feed Germany this winter. And yet if it is not possible or desirable to send food to Germany we can give you every assurance that it will be used here in Holland and be a real contribution to our program.—Peter J. Dyck.

**Work among Jewish Refugees.**—I feel that all of us working in the southern camps of Italy are in a unique position in that we are helping those people who have been, and still are, the most widely persecuted in the world. Thus, even more important than in dealing with other refugees, we must do more than supply the necessary physical requirements in order to prolong and rebuild a body that is ill from years of deprivation of the essential needs. We must offer kind words, patient ways, a smiling face, and an understanding heart. Until one sits down and speaks with dozens of these who have suffered Jewish persecution, one cannot fully realize what the force of evil can do to a life. —Bertha Fast

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# *Thinking about Relief*

**Christmas, 1945**

These days find us animated by the customary activities of the season. The tempo and efficiency of our labors increase with the prospect of a holiday, family fellowship, and the opportunity to share with each other gifts of our choosing. For comfortable homes and pleasant fellowship we have the assurance of sufficient fuel, abundant food, and a variety of delicacies. Should the season come with snow and zero-cold weather we will not mind—in fact, their presence will enliven the holiday and make our firesides the more cozy.

In many ways we will have an unusual Christmas in 1945. At once it will be the most joyful and the most distressing Christmas which we have had for many a year. Most joyful, because we have been delivered from the tensions and uncertainties of war. Distressing, because the monsters which followed in the wake of the armies are scarcely less forbidding than war itself. Christmas in America this year will be a joyful one, but when we have eaten and our pleasures are ended we will see between the daylight and the dark the shadows of the many war sufferers who reside in the land of destruction, starvation, and pestilence.

At Christmas time so many things and persons occupy our time and thinking. It is fitting that we share the good graces and rich bounties of our circumstances with our families and friends. Let us rejoice in our blessings with true humbleness and sincere gratefulness. But will we not be most indifferent and most undeserving if we do not express our love and concern in somewhat the same manner our heavenly Parent has remembered us.

The Christmas season this year, while making us aware of the blackness of the day, may also remind us of the hope and peace in Christ. Above himself and his his feelings, the Christian servant may always find release from the despair of the world. Christ is the end of history and above the confusion and perplexity there is profound order and certainty. With this assurance, today, and through all time, Christ continues to send us as children of light even as He was sent by the Father.

**Change of Editors**

A change in the editorship of the War Sufferers' Relief Bulletin is taking place with the publication of the present issue. Irvin B. Horst, the former editor, as a C.P.S. assignee has been released and will be leaving the Publicity Office at Akron. The new editor, Daniel B. Suter, has been given the responsibility of directing the course of this paper. Increasing interest in the materials released through the Bulletin will likely justify its publication in the months ahead as a Mennonite relief witness continues to be given.

**"I Was Hungry"**

"We are very rich in a poor world and very fat in a lean world. Something more than relief will of course be required to set the world on the path to sanity and health.

"Only a sensitive conscience and a vivid imagination can bridge the chasm between our abundance and the world's needs. We can never bridge this chasm completely, but we must try.

"It would be terrible if our nation should come under the judgment: 'I was hungry and ye gave me no meat; I was thirsty and ye gave me no drink; I was sick and in prison and ye visited me not!' "—Reinhold Niebuhr, in **Christianity and Crisis.**

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The first gift for relief and Christian reconstruction in Japan came from the Airborne Christian Church of the 327th Glider Infantry in France, according to the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction. In announcing receipt of the gift, Mr. Fred Atkins Moore, C.C.R.A. director, made public, the letter from the chaplain, which read in part: " 'Love your enemies' has been ringing in our hearts for some time. We are eager to do something about it." (WP)

**TO HUNGRY EUROPE**

Hunger is an abstract word
For I am so well fed;
And sorrow has no meaning
When I've no tears to shed.

—Evelyn Hagner in "Friends Intelligencer," December 1, 1945. Used by permission.

# Reports from Puerto Rico

**Puerto Rican Interest in the Gospel.**—As I was performing my usual tasks in the laundry, Francisco, a short, stunted lad of sixteen years, stopped in for a short chat, as do many others. As he was loafing about he noticed a little copy of the "Gospel of John" lying on the table and asked if he may have it. Not knowing the boy too well, I asked him if he could read. He answered that he could read, but because of sickness and poverty he was unable to continue beyond the second grade of public school. After he read a portion to me I asked him to accept this little booklet but asked that he should learn by memory some of its precious verses.

In a week Francisco returned and smilingly recited clearly to me John 3:16 and added, "I want to learn one for next week." This continued and his brother also wanted one of these booklets and the opportunity to memorize verses. For a while it was just the two of them that came from across the river every Sunday afternoon to recite their Bible verses and sing new songs. These two invited their neighbor friends to come along with them and we organized a class, teaching them some of the interesting incidents and stories of the Bible. Interest continued to grow from across the river, as well as nearby, and the average attendance stepped up to twelve and fifteen. Since there was, in the same class, an age range of five to seventeen years, we found it more successful to organize another class. Royal Snyder is teaching the junior class at present while Elmer Gingerich is teaching the primary class.

It has been a rich experience to teach those who have heard very little or nothing of the Gospel. We who have been reared in Christian homes, Christian schools and churches have something worthy to offer to these who come from broken homes with little schooling and no churches. We have confidence that these few lessons will aid those who desire to live on the Higher Ground, and that some of the home, community and national problems may be solved.

Men, women and children are watching us, working with us, playing with us and conversing with us; they seemingly want to know what kind of a God we serve and represent. They are hungering for more than material needs as we hear and see them ask these many simple questions. We are striving for perfection in our Christian witness and service that people may see the joy in living Christian lives instead of being deceived by false doctrine and the denial of Jesus as the Son of God. Bibles are being distributed and read, but teachers are needed to introduce to the people the Word of God. It is a challenge to us as youth to see the many opportunities of service about us, and it is through the grace of God we want to serve, giving praise and honor to His name.—Elmer Gingerich

**Ground Breaking Ceremonies**

Thanksgiving morning marked another high place in the progress of the La Plata Unit when in a brief ground breaking service we began the actual construction of our long-awaited chapel.

The service was opened by fitting devotions by Dr. Troyer followed by remarks by Harry Martens, unit director, after which the ground was broken by Joe Brunk, assisted by John Amstutz and Duane Lee Martens, representatives of the younger generation of our unit. The service was closed by a prayer by Dr. Amstutz. Music was furnished by women's and men's quartets.

Now, a week later, construction is in full swing with Joe Brunk as construction foreman and a number of C.P.S. men who have volunteered their services after their release from Civilian Public Service. We hope to have the chapel completed within a few months.—Carol B. Diller

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London—Embarking on one of the largest relief programs for Poland, the Swedish International Relief Committee has put twenty, three-ton trucks into service carrying material landed by Swedish vessels at the Polish port of Gydnia. One complete 480-bed hospital has been delivered and two others are on the way. Together with X-ray and electro-therapeutic equipment, 20,000 hospital beds complete with mattrsses and sheets are also being delivered. (WP)

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Only that faith which controls the life and cleanses the heart and inspires deeds of love and mercy can save the soul.—Caldwell

# Le Dolivet—Mennonite Nursery in France

By Vernon K. Toews

The house of Le Dolivet is a big country house, the home of a well-to-do Protestant missionary to Beyreuth, Palestine. It is about five hundred feet above sea level, and approximately two kilometers from the Saone River. It is located in a little valley, the hillside being covered by a natural woods in which the children may ramble.

The house has fifteen living rooms plus numerous smaller storage rooms. The ground floor has a large central hall, a dining room, living room, kitchen, scullery, laundry and two small bedrooms. The first floor has five dormitories, an infirmary and two rooms for the personnel. There is also a huge attic that is being used as a temporary clothing depot. In addition there is an annex for laundry and children's clothing, and room for personnel, garage and fuel shed.

About the house is a shady, rolling park garden of about three acres for the children to play in. There is also a small fruit orchard and a place for a vegetable garden. There are also numerous lanes for hikes in the immediate neighborhood.

**The Children**

We have an average of forty-five children at this colony. When the home was first opened, it was thought that we would have none but pre-school-age children here, but we have had boys and girls between the ages of two and fourteen. John Marie is a lovely little blonde, curly-headed fellow sent to us by the leaders of the French Resistance Army. His mother is in prison waiting to be tried for collaborating with the enemy, and his father was a German soldier (we think). His parents were not married. Again, the father of August, Jeanne, Antoinne and Francois was a marine who was lost at sea; their mother found it too hard to care for the four boys and their tiny sister, so they were sent to us.

**Food**

Due to a drouth during the growing season, the country is suffering from a partial crop failure, making life in the larger cities very difficult indeed. Fruits and vegetables have been very scarce and it has been hard to obtain sufficient to satisfy the needs of the colony. For a week or so we couldn't find any vegetables at all. Things were so difficult that the Prefect at Macon sent word that we would be well advised to close our home. We had a store of dried beans and macaroni on hand, so we decided to hang on as long as possible, hoping for conditions to ease up, which they did. Things are still difficult to get, but we do have our national rations of staples, such as sugar, meat, macaroni and cheese. Bread is to be taken off of the rations shortly. We have been receiving some special rations of chocolate and biscuits from the Entr'Aide. Fruits and vegetables still present the biggest problem—potatoes sell at twenty cents per pound, tomatoes at thirty, carrots at twenty, apples at twenty-four, pears at forty and honey at two dollars. The mayor of the local village has promised us five tons of potatoes. If our food supplies could be supplemented by shipments from America, we could make this winter quite well.

**Clothing**

The clothing that our children are wearing is very poor indeed. Most of the garments cannot be patched much more. They consist of patch upon patch. I find that the footwear is worst of all, the shoes being wooden soles with poor leather tops. We have only twenty pairs for our forty children. We have also approximately a hundred pairs of socks. There is very little likelihood of being able to build up our stocks any unless the much needed shipments from America start coming in. We have had one shipment from the Entr'-Aide Francaise to replace a shipment that was lost in Alsace during the Rundsted offensive last spring. Much of the clothing in that shipment was for adults and is of little value to us in our colony. What little we can use is not nearly enough for our colonies; we are in need of **all** kinds and sizes, from toddlers to adolescent ages.

**Fuel and Equipment**

Our present supply of wood and coal is pitifully small, but the local governmental authorities have started giving us small fuel bonuses already and if this keeps up we will have sufficient for the winter. We have about one cord of wood and a little better than a ton of coal on

hand. When winter comes we shall be receiving two tons of coal and a little wood each month.

In short, one might say that installations of all kinds simply "are not." Our kitchen stove, a really huge thing, is about as efficient as one medium gas-burner, although it has two ovens that are in fair condition. It is next to impossible for the cook to prepare meals on it. Our kitchen utensils are of excellent quality, heavy grade aluminum, as good as one might wish to find. We have no hot water installations and can pump water into the house by electricity only in winter.

We have no bath tub in which to bathe the children so all the bathing they receive is one laboriously given sponge bath per week. It is next to impossible to keep the children properly clean under the existing conditions. Soap is practically non-existent in the colony; the monthly ration is equivalent to two bars, the size that one receives in a hotel. This ration has to do for all toilet and laundry purposes and is of the poorest quality. Cleansing supplies of all types are very hard to obtain: brooms, brushes, mops, etc. are also of very poor quality. For quite some time all of the sweeping had to be done with a homemade, hazel-twig broom.

When one considers all the shortages and handicaps that have been mentioned one wonders why the project is continued. One reason is that the children still receive better care here than they do in their homes. Again, we can imprint upon their minds some idea of the better, Christian way of life. Also, we are going on in faith, hoping that our Mennonite goods will finally reach us. As soon as this becomes a reality, many of our difficulties will disappear. Finally, we are still optimistic and happy because we know that we serve "in the Name of Christ."

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Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.—James 1:27

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He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor. Proverbs 22:9

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They that die by famine die by inches. —William Paton

# Admission Day at Taxal Edge

Admission day is here! Ten boys who have been here for a month or six weeks, are going home and ten new boys are coming. What excitement! Those who are going have received their own clothes and reluctantly they lay off Taxal Edge clothes and don their own with many exclamations, "Oh, my pants! My socks! Don't they look funny?" There is the excitement of getting parcels packed and the presents for mother and little baby sister all carefully wrapped. "Any wrapping paper?" "Some string, please, Sir!"

At last all are ready and it is train time. The "Good-byes" are not only said, but yelled, and the Taxal song sung as the ten move off. All attention is now turned to the "new" boys to give them a welcome. How pale and thin they look, and how timid! Immediately the "old" boys feel the importance of their position—they are now the "old" boys, and how wise! Occasionally one will take the "big boss" attitude and tell the new boys "where to get off" while others will dare the new boy to do forbidden things.

Dinner is ready and all twenty go to the dining room where they are served a good hot dinner. The new boys do not receive as much as the older boys as they are "not hungry," but we do not worry, they'll soon make up for it and get their full share. After dinner they are shown their beds (the sleepwalkers and the ones with nightmares are placed next to Nurses' room) and given clothes which have been sent from America. It is a real chore to find clothes for every size and to suit every taste as well. After tea there are showers for everyone. "This is a treat," remarks a new boy, "when do we have another, next week?" "What d'je mean, next week? We have a shower every night," retorts the old boy, knowingly. "Every night! What d'je think I is, a duck?" It is then to bed after showers where they write letters home or read until eight o'clock when lights are out and all is quiet until morning.—Martha Rupel

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"The roots of the Mennonites run very deep in the suffering of Europe. Mennonites are on the march in many countries."—M. R. Zigler

# Peace Notes

**Christian Workers' School**

A very worthwhile off-time activity of the C.P.S. Unit at the Harrisburg State Hospital is their Christian Workers' School; they report good interest and active participation in the work of the school. At present there are 22 men enrolled in the course "Sunday School Pedagogy" being taught by John Climenhaga, instructor at Messiah Bible College, Grantham, Pa. It is planned that the course of 12 lessons shall be enriched by "practice teaching" in a patients' Bible study class, sponsored by the men.

The members of the Christian Workers' School held during the winter of 1944-45 have evaluated the training such a school offers in the following statement:

"We who have chosen Civilian Public Service have done so because our philosophy of life is based primarily upon a religious foundation. We believe that the life of sacrificial service which Christ exemplified is the life most worthwhile. The world of today with its crying moral and spiritual need presents to us an unprecedented challenge—a challenge to prepare ourselves now for serving those who are in need. Many men are now being thoroughly trained for material and military duties. How much more should we devote ourselves to systematic training which will help us to be more useful in work of spiritual value! We do not know what our eventual field of service may be; but we do know that there is a work for every earnest and zealous Christian."

**Service for Peace**

Men working as attendants in mental hospitals often wonder whether their efforts are appreciated by those whom they seek to serve. They may sometimes wonder about the supposition that there is a very definite relationship between kind, patient, understanding care and the recovery of a mentally ill person, having seen few results. Concrete evidence that the type of service being rendered by many C.P.S. attendants does bring results is found in a letter of appreciation received at M.C.C. headquarters from a former patient at the Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. The letter states, in part:

"Believe me, I can never repay these two (C.P.S. attendants) and their fellow C.P.S. men for all their kindnesses, thoughtfulness and consideration to me during my stay at the hospital. They not only tended to my physical needs but they imparted to me a renewed faith in God and did much to help me back on the road to health. They gave unsparingly of their time and made life a lot easier for me during my convalescence. I have never met a finer group of fellows, imbued with the spirit and teachings of Jesus Christ. I firmly believe that I owe my miraculous recovery, to a major degree, to their kind ministrations and guidance."

**Volunteer Service in the South**

The C.P.S. men at Mulberry, Fla. and Gulfport, Miss. are making valuable contributions in community service in the form of voluntary, spare-time projects. They are using time which could be well used for personal activity to bring health and happiness to needy folk about them.

At Mulberry the men are surveying the recreational and sanitary needs of the schools of the county. At one school for the colored they found the schoolhouse lacking front steps and a teacher's desk so they immediately set about to provide them; in addition they repaired windows, installed two new privies donated by the County Health Department and provided some much-needed playground equipment. Care is taken to give such aid as would not be otherwise provided.

At Gulfport the campers are spending their evenings in making toys for distribution among the needy children of Gulfport, in cooperation with the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the young people of the local Mennonite church. In addition to this they are giving their time on Saturdays to school projects similar to the Mulberry work. At one school, with the funds furnished by the Parent-Teachers' Association, they have repaired windows, sanitized the school cafeteria, and installed a sanitary drinking fountain. Through the initiative of the group, the state agreed to drain side ditches, making it possible to install adequate water disposal facilities. Benches and recreational equipment are to be added. It is this spirit of community helpfulness and concern for the needy and unfortunate that should add impetus to any full-time voluntary service program.

# If I've Eaten My Morsel Alone . . .

"If I have eaten my morsel alone,"
The patriarch spake in scorn;
What would he think of the Church were he shown
Heathendom huge, forlorn,
Godless, Christless, with souls unfed,
While the Church's ailment is fulness of bread,
Eating her morsel alone?

"I am debtor alike to the Jew and the Greek,"
The mighty apostle cried;
Traversing continents souls to seek,
For love of the Crucified.
Centuries, centuries have sped,
Millions are perishing, we have bread;
But we eat our morsel alone.

Ever of them who have largest dower
Shall Heaven require the more:
Ours is affluence, knowledge, power,
Ocean from shore to shore
And East and West have in our ears said,
"Give us, give us living bread,"
Yet we eat our morsel alone.

"Freely ye have received, so give,"
Bade He who hath given us all;
How shall the soul in us longer live,
Deaf to their starving call—
For whom the blood of the Lord was shed,
And His body broken to give them bread,
If we eat our morsel alone?

—Archbishop Alexander